

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08367 051214Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----020252 051216Z /11

O 051140Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3958
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 8367

EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE, IS
SUBJECT: PLEAS FOR HELP FROM LEBANESE CHRISTIANS TO ISRAELIS

REF: TEL AVIV 8342

1. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TELEPHONED ME AT 1230 JULY 5
TO RAISE AGAIN THE QUESTION OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS.
HE SAID THAT MORE DESPERATE CALLS FOR HELP HAD ARRIVED
THIS MORNING FROM THE CHRISTIANS IN BEIRUT, AND HE
AGAIN ASKED THAT THE U.S. DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER
TO STOP "THE SYRIAN KILLING." HE SAID HE HAD CONSIDERED
SENDING A PERSONAL TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER THIS
MORNING TO UNDERSCORE THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION
AND THE NEED FOR THE U.S. TO BEND ALL ITS EFFORTS TO
PERSUADE THE SYRIANS TO OBSERVE A CEASEFIRE. HOWEVER,
HE HAD DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW TO SEND SUCH A
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 08367 051214Z

MESSAGE AND TO ASK ME TO RELAY TODAY HIS WORRIES
TO SECRETARY VANCE AND TO PRESIDENT CARTER.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT FROM THE MESSAGES I HAD SEEN I
THOUGH WE WERE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE
THE SYRIANS TO OBSERVE A CEASEFIRE AND TO PERSUADE ALL
THE PARTIES TO STOP THE SENSELESS KILLING. I SAID I

HOPED THAT ISRAEL WAS DOING EVERYTHING IT COULD ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE OF THE EQUATION TO THAT SAME OBJECTIVE.

3. FRANKLY, I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG THE ISRAELIS WILL SIT BY QUIETLY UNLESS THE SYRIANS SHOW SOME SIGNS OF MODERATING THEIR DISPROPORTIONATE RESPONSE TO PROVOCATIONS, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY EXIST, FROM THE CHRISTIAN SIDE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO THREATS FROM HERE, BUT THE ESCALATING MESSAGES FROM BEGIN TO ME WHICH ARE INTENDED FOR THE PRESIDENT CARRY THEIR OWN IMPLICIT MESSAGE. I REALIZE FULLY THAT WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT WITH THE SYRIANS AT PRESENT, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MORE WE CAN DO. BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO LET THE SYRIANS KNOW ABOUT THE RISING TIDE OF ISRAELI MESSAGES AND THE TENOR OF THE APPEALS WHICH THE ISRAELIS ARE OBVIOUSLY RECEIVING FROM THEIR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS. LEWIS

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, ARMED FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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